

Public Health Programs

Action: The staff recommends that the council:

- Delegate to the boards of trustees of the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky authority to approve joint or collaborative master's degrees necessary to expedite the accreditation of public health schools by the Council on Education for Public Health and promote public health research.
- Extend approval of the master's degree programs through 2004, while the universities continue to pursue the creation of a single, jointly accredited school of public health.

In November 1999, the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville agreed to create one jointly accredited Kentucky School of Public Health. However, extended discussions with the Council on Education for Public Health, the national accrediting body for public health programs, revealed that CEPH is unwilling to accredit a jointly administered school of public health. Those discussions will continue. The University of Louisville and University of Kentucky are committed to changing CEPH's position. But these negotiations will take time, and Kentucky needs to address its public health problems while they proceed.

A good interim solution is to create accredited schools of public health that work with other graduate public health programs in the state. Immediate creation of accredited programs in public health will help Kentucky attract and prepare many more public health professionals. Accredited programs also are necessary to allow both universities to contribute their intellectual capacity to conducting public health research that is needed by the state and nation at this time.

Accreditation at the University of Louisville requires creation of a practitioner-oriented master's degree (the MPH). The existing MPH at UK and the new MPH at UofL will be collaborative or joint programs. A joint master's research degree (the MSPH) between the two institutions will foster collaborative work solving public health problems and support the eventual creation of a jointly accredited school.

The universities will provide regular reports to the council on their progress in developing degree programs and negotiating with CEPH for a jointly accredited school of public health. Both

institutions will ensure that all students enrolled in any degree program that may be phased out can complete those programs in a timely fashion.

Staff preparation by Jim Applegate



KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

GORDON K. DAVIES
President

October 12, 2001

Dr. John W. Shumaker
President
University of Louisville
102 Grawemeyer Hall
Louisville, KY 40292

Dr. Lee T. Todd, Jr.
President
University of Kentucky
101 Gillis Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0033

Dear John and Lee:

Thank you for meeting with us to discuss your public health programs and the future of public health education in Kentucky. Your willingness to work together will help us meet Kentucky's needs.

This letter summarizes our discussion last week. If I've misstated anything, please let me know so we can get the record straight.

At the meeting, you said that members of your staffs would work with Sue Moore and Jim Applegate to create a proposal for a board to oversee public health programs at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville and to ensure collaboration. This board also would serve a broader function: developing a statewide strategy for public health in Kentucky, much like the statewide engineering strategy. The board would include representatives from your institutions, Western Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University, the state public health department, and others important to a statewide strategy.

You also indicated you would develop proposals for academic programs needed to create accredited schools of public health at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. You agreed these could be joint degree programs to reduce duplication and increase collaboration.

Dr. Shumaker
Dr. Todd
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We shall review these programs and discuss appropriate recommendations to the council. But as you suggested, we shall stipulate a three-year sunset clause in all program approvals. During the three years, we shall work together to challenge the restrictions imposed by the Council on Education in Public Health and seek to create a jointly accredited school of public health consistent with the council's original vision.

I remain concerned that a short-term strategy may create at least the appearance of duplication in public health education. We'll have to address this issue as we move forward.

Thank you again for your efforts. Please call me if you have questions. Sue, Jim, and I look forward to working with your colleagues and you on this next phase of public health education in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Gordon K. Davies
Gordon K. Davies *plb*



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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October 25, 2001

Dr. Gordon K. Davies
President
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
1024 Capital Center Drive
Suite 320
Frankfort, KY 40601-8204

Dear Gordon:

I am writing this letter in support of the recommendation of the staff to the Council on Postsecondary Education, that the Council concur with the creation of an accredited School of Public Health at both the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. We strongly support the recommendation that the Board of Trustees at both the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville be delegated the authority to approve appropriate masters degrees in Public Health. Clearly, this will expedite the accreditation of the Public Health Programs at both institutions.

We will continue to pursue the creation of a jointly accredited School of Public Health over the next three-year period. The creation of a joint Master of Science in Public Health Degree between the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville will encourage collaboration between the two institutions in public health research and our faculty will work diligently to accomplish this effort as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Lee T. Todd, Jr.'.

Lee T. Todd, Jr.
President

UNIVERSITY of LOUISVILLE

John W. Shumaker
President

University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky 40292
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October 25, 2001

Dr. Gordon Davies
President
Council on Postsecondary Education
1024 Capital Center Drive
Suite 321
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Gordon:

I support the recommendations regarding public health that you plan to make to the Council at their November 5th meeting. I believe it is an excellent interim solution to allow both the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky to offer the practitioner oriented (MPH) degrees required for accreditation. We understand that the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville will offer these degrees in a collaborative manner and that the two institutions will work to coordinate public health teaching and research across the state. The creation of a separate School of Public Health at the University of Louisville increases our ability to attract research dollars, retain outstanding faculty and enroll high quality students. It also provides for the training of the public health personnel that are so desperately needed at this moment in our country's history.

Over the next several years I will work with you and Dr. Todd in an attempt to persuade the public health accrediting body (CEPH) to change its position on the requirement that a single university be responsible for each school of public health. At such time that CEPH changes this requirement the University Louisville will be glad to pursue the creation of a single school of public health for Kentucky.

Sincerely,

